

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A network management system for detecting and remedying malfunctions in a network device configured to transmit status signals at approximately a preselected time interval under
5 normal operating conditions, comprising:
 - a communication interface for communicating with the network device; and
 - a processing system being configured to receive the status signals via said communication interface and to generate a control signal identifying appropriate corrective action if the status signals are not received substantially in accordance with the preselected time
10 interval.
2. An information system, comprising:
 - a network system;
 - a network device coupled with said network system and configured to transmit status signals at approximately a preselected time interval under normal operating conditions; and
15 a network management system coupled with said network system and being configured to receive said status signals via said network system, to generate a control signal identifying appropriate corrective action if said status signals are not received substantially in accordance with said preselected time interval, and to provide said control signal to said network device via said network system.

3. A method for detecting and remedying malfunctions in a network device , comprising:
providing said network device configured to transmit status signals at approximately a
preselected time interval under normal operating conditions;

receiving said status signals by a network management system via a network system;

5 generating a control signal identifying appropriate corrective action if said status signals
are not received by the network management system substantially in accordance with said
preselected time interval;

receiving said control signal by said network device via said network system; and

implementing said corrective action via said network device.